

Mr. T. C. Thommen : The Agent to the Governor-General, Madras States, has been addressed with a view to move the Government of India for enhancing the import duties or tariff values or both on copra and cocoanut oil. The decision of the Government of India is awaited.

Grant to the Cocoanut Cultivators' Association.

60. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether they have contributed a sum of Rs. 1,000 for a deputation of the Cocoanut Cultivators' Association to Simla ;

(b) whether the country has been in any way benefited by the deputation ; and

(c) if so, what are the benefits ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Government have no information.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member whether any amount has been given to the Cocoanut Cultivators' Association ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 1,000 has been given to the Association.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know for what purpose that amount was given ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : The Association is doing work connected with the improvement of the cultivation of cocoanut. To encourage the Association the amount has been given.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether there is any direction about the utilisation of the sum ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : No definite direction was given.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether it is a registered association ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : It has not yet been registered. I understand that they are going to register it.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether the Government have ascertained whether the activities of the Association are towards the improvement of cocoanut cultivation in Travancore ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : Yes.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether the Government have been convinced that their activities so far are towards the improvement of cocoanut cultivation in Travancore.

Mr. T. C. Thommen : Yes.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know on what materials that information is based ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : On the report of the Director of Agriculture.

Encouragement of foreign newspapers.

61. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam :** Will the Government be pleased to state the amount annually spent by them for encouraging foreign newspapers?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : Nil.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : വിദേശപത്രങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകുന്നുണ്ടോ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : ഇല്ല.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether any financial help is given to any foreign news agency?

President : The question relates to newspapers and not to news agencies. The supplementary question should be confined only to the subject matter of the interpellation.

Administration Report for 1109.

62. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Administration Report of 1109 was printed and published towards the end of 1110?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : It was printed and published in Meenam 1110.

Report of the Special Officer on the complaint against the Workshop Superintendent.

63. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam :** Will the Government be pleased to state the final decision on the report submitted by the Special Officer on the complaint against the Superintendent, Workshops?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : The report is under consideration.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : What was the sort of enquiry that this Special Officer was asked to conduct?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : There were certain allegations against the officer, and the Special Officer was asked to examine them.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether definite charges were framed and evidence was taken?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : The Special Officer was asked to enquire and frame charges.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether the Special Officer sent up any report to Government?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : Yes.